

Letter Variations

for piano

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Note on the edition:

The previous edition has been reformatted for ease of use, now showing one variation per page, in alphabetical order, and with individual sequences of bar numbers for each variation. Some typographical errors were corrected, and/or some purely cosmetic changes were made. The following textual errors were corrected:

- Variation C, bar 14: a D is transposed two octaves and is now a dotted half-note.
- Variation F, bars 3 & 4: a passage was relocated to another staff. Bar 9: the sustain pedal may be kept depressed during first bars of the repeat, as indicated by a dotted line. Bar 12: the low F is only held during this bar.
- Variation R, bars 8 & 9: the low A in bar 9 is no longer slurred with the chord in bar 8.
- Variation X, bar 16: whole notes in the left hand, instead of half notes.

No other changes were made to the music, but a little clarification was added to performance notes.

Performance notes:

Any number of variations may be played, in any order. The sequence of the variations in the score is not definitive. Dynamics and tempi are approximate and may be ignored wholly or in part. Most variations will respond well to moderate amounts of rubato, or a gently swinging performance. Most will also benefit from a gentle slowing down at the end, followed by a small pause before the next variation begins (in variations with a fermata on the last bar and/or empty bar(s) at the end, the pause is mandatory). Still others may be arranged in a sequence that flows smoothly without interruptions between individual variations.

The small fragments of text included must not be read aloud or understood, in any context, as titles of individual variations.

Letter Variations

Variation B

Jashiin
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Piano

$\text{♩} = 60$

Red.

7

the needs of the other or of us both

Red.

13

Red.

Variation C

1 $\text{♩} = 90$ the world is a golden glow

Piano

6

7

12

13

Ped.

Ped.

Ped.

Variation D

1 $\text{♩} = 60$ the light of the gods poured down on us

Piano

mp

p

5

Variation F

4

1 $\text{♩} = 100$

Piano

15^{ma}

distant, their features obscured, or disappearing

7

8^{va}

Ped.

12

8^{va}

Ped.

Variation G

cloudless vault of sky overhead

1 $\text{♩} = 90$

Piano

f *mp* *mf* *f* *mf*

Ped. Ped.

9

f *trm*

Ped.

15

p *f* *trm* *p* *tr*

Variation H

1 $\text{♩} = 200$

Piano

Measures 1-5 of Variation H. The score is for piano in 7/8 time. The tempo is marked as quarter note = 200. The music features a complex rhythmic pattern with many eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests. The right hand has a steady eighth-note accompaniment, while the left hand has a more melodic line with some grace notes and slurs.

6 the darkness would shroud them and the rolling ocean waves

Measures 6-10 of Variation H. The score continues from measure 6. It includes the lyrics "the darkness would shroud them and the rolling ocean waves". The musical notation shows a continuation of the complex rhythmic patterns, with some changes in the bass line and a more active right hand.

10

Measures 10-14 of Variation H. The score continues from measure 10. It shows the final measures of the variation, ending with a double bar line. The right hand has a final chord, and the left hand has a melodic phrase.

Variation J

1 $\text{♩} = 65$ the whole of your life, and for one reason

Piano

p

p Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

8

Ped. Ped. Ped.

Variation K

8

1 $\text{♩} = 80$ sympathy, not judgement

Piano

7 $\text{♩} = 70$

13

Ped. _____ Ped. _____

17

_____ Ped. _____

Variation L

1 $\text{♩} = 55$ the only light still on

Piano

The musical score is written for piano in 6/4 time. It consists of two systems of two staves each. The first system covers measures 1 through 4. Measure 1 starts with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The right hand plays a series of chords and single notes, while the left hand plays a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes. Pedal markings (*Ped.*) are present under measures 2, 3, and 4. The second system covers measures 5 through 8. Measure 5 starts with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The right hand continues with chords and notes, and the left hand has some rests. Pedal markings (*Ped.*) are present under measures 6, 7, and 8. The score ends with a piano-piano (*pp*) dynamic in measure 8.

p *Ped.* *Ped.* *Ped.* *pp*

5

p *Ped.*

Variation M

1 $\text{♩} = 120$

Piano

1 $\text{♩} = 120$

9 the trappings of success, but not the virtues

9 the trappings of success, but not the virtues

16

16

Variation N

1 $\text{♩} = 70$ that moment there was nothing

Piano

Ped. _____

Ped. _____

Ped. _____

Ped. _____

6

Ped. _____

Ped. _____

10

Ped. _____

Ped. _____

Variation P

12

1 $\text{♩} = 85$ a surprising array of common things

Piano

Measures 1-6: Treble clef, 4/4 time, $\text{♩} = 85$. Dynamics: *p*. The melody in the treble staff is: C_4 (quarter), D_4 (quarter), E_4 (quarter), F_4 (quarter), G_4 (quarter), A_4 (quarter), B_4 (quarter), C_5 (quarter), B_4 (quarter), A_4 (quarter), G_4 (quarter), F_4 (quarter), E_4 (quarter), D_4 (quarter), C_4 (quarter). The bass staff has whole notes: C_4 , F_3 , C_4 , F_3 , C_4 , F_3 , C_4 , F_3 , C_4 , F_3 , C_4 , F_3 , C_4 , F_3 , C_4 , F_3 .

7

Measures 7-13: Treble clef, 4/4 time. The melody in the treble staff continues: D_4 (quarter), E_4 (quarter), F_4 (quarter), G_4 (quarter), A_4 (quarter), B_4 (quarter), C_5 (quarter), B_4 (quarter), A_4 (quarter), G_4 (quarter), F_4 (quarter), E_4 (quarter), D_4 (quarter), C_4 (quarter). The bass staff has eighth and quarter notes: C_4 (quarter), D_4 (quarter), E_4 (quarter), F_4 (quarter), G_4 (quarter), A_4 (quarter), B_4 (quarter), C_5 (quarter), B_4 (quarter), A_4 (quarter), G_4 (quarter), F_4 (quarter), E_4 (quarter), D_4 (quarter), C_4 (quarter).

14

Measures 14-18: Treble clef, 4/4 time. The melody in the treble staff has a repeat sign at the beginning of measure 14. The bass staff has quarter notes and rests: C_4 (quarter), F_3 (quarter), C_4 (quarter), F_3 (quarter), C_4 (quarter), F_3 (quarter), C_4 (quarter), F_3 (quarter), C_4 (quarter), F_3 (quarter), C_4 (quarter), F_3 (quarter), C_4 (quarter), F_3 (quarter), C_4 (quarter), F_3 (quarter).

19

Measures 19-24: Treble clef, 4/4 time. The melody in the treble staff continues: D_4 (quarter), E_4 (quarter), F_4 (quarter), G_4 (quarter), A_4 (quarter), B_4 (quarter), C_5 (quarter), B_4 (quarter), A_4 (quarter), G_4 (quarter), F_4 (quarter), E_4 (quarter), D_4 (quarter), C_4 (quarter). The bass staff has eighth and quarter notes: C_4 (quarter), D_4 (quarter), E_4 (quarter), F_4 (quarter), G_4 (quarter), A_4 (quarter), B_4 (quarter), C_5 (quarter), B_4 (quarter), A_4 (quarter), G_4 (quarter), F_4 (quarter), E_4 (quarter), D_4 (quarter), C_4 (quarter).

Variation Q

1 $\text{♩} = 100$

Piano

until there is nothing left of you for me to hate

Ped.

9

Ped.

15

Ped.

Variation R

1 $\text{♩} = 70$ wind and dark waters rising

Piano

5

9

Detailed description: The musical score is written for piano in 4/2 time, with a tempo marking of quarter note = 70. The piece is titled 'Variation R' and includes the lyrics 'wind and dark waters rising' above the first four measures. The score is divided into three systems. The first system (measures 1-4) begins with a first ending bracket. The second system (measures 5-8) includes a second ending bracket. The third system (measures 9-12) features a repeat sign and a first ending bracket. The right hand plays a melodic line with slurs and accents, while the left hand provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and sustained notes.

Variation S

1 $\text{♩} = 90$ like a secret being told

Piano *p*

5

Variation T

1 $\text{♩} = 75$ letting the whole sky sparkle softly

Piano

mp *mf* *p* *mp* *p* *mf*

Ped.

5

pp *mp* *pp* *mp*

Ped.

Variation V

1 $\text{♩} = 100$ to allow my mind to wander, my fantasies to overcome reason

Piano

Ped.

8

Ped.

Variation W

18

1 $\text{♩} = 100$ rit. $\text{♩} = 100$

Piano

p *f* *p* *p* *f* *p*

p *f* *p* *f* *p*

p a euphoric sense of well-being *f* *p* *Red.*

7

f *p* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f*

13

f *p* *f* *p*

17

f *p* *f* *f* *p*

p *f* *p*

Red. *Red.*

Variation X

1 $\text{♩} = 90$ remember in a perfect recursion

Piano

mf

mf

Ped.

Ped.

8

Ped.

14

Ped.

Variation Z

1 $\text{♩} = 85$

Piano

p *p* *mp*

p hidden in the raw music of the tumbling water

9